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To Open Heaven's Gate :

Or, a Ready Path-Way

To lead Men to Heaven

Written and Printed for the Benefit of all true
Christians to read and hear, and make good use of
before it be too late.

And therefore, I advise every Man and Woman to
give heed to what is spoken in this little Book, and
they may be sure to find Mercy of Jesus Christ,
Who saith, *Ask and you shall have, seek and ye shall
find, knock and it shall be opened unto You.*





A Key to open Heaven's Gate.

Or, a ready Way to lead Men to Heaven.

Here follow good and sound Doctrine to set Men in the ready Way to Heaven : Which Way if they mistake they are never like to come there.

DEAR and beloved Christians, I would have You thus much to understand that all those that have and desire to go to Heaven, must and shall wisely endeavour themselves to follow this Path-way.

First, Thou must truly and unfeignedly labour to serve God, and obey his Commandments, which is a Duty that ought to be done without grudging, murmuring, or delays, for he that is alive To-day may be dead before the Morrow, and it will be too late to look after a Way that they never sought for in their Life-time : And therefore, I advise you all good Christians, to seek the Lord while he may be found or he is a God of Truth and Justice, of Peace, of Mercy, and of Love ; and such a one that would have all Men and Women to be saved.

Secondly, Here is another Duty to be performed by all Men that will find a ready Way to Heaven, as our Brother is our Neighbour, even so your Neighbour is Your Brother and therefore ought every Man and Woman to love, cherish and comfort each other, and live in Peace and Unity one with another, and not to wrangle, babble, fight, scold, or go to law, until they have undone one another : For who do such Things are gone far out of the Way to Heaven. Remember

Therefore what our Saviour Christ saith in the Gospel: *A new Commandment give I unto You; see that You love one another: For if You love not Your Neighbour whom you see every Day, how can You love God whom You never saw?* Therefore, consider and take heed in Time what you do, he that hated his Neighbour, hateth his Brother, and he that hateh his Brother, hateth God, and he that hateth God will never find the Way to Heaven; and therefore, I desire all them that are called by the Name of Christians to shew themselves like Christians, laying apart all Hatred, Spite, Envy, Malice, Lying, Slander, Back-biting, Hypocrisy, and Diffimulation, and withal to break such Bread as you would have broken; and likewise do unto all Men as you would they should do unto You. This is to be sure the nearest Way to Heaven, yet more than this is to be done before you can come to your Journey's End: You must repent of all your former iniquities, you must do good to them that have done Evil unto you, and you must forgive them their trespasses, as you look to be forgiven at the hand of God. And so far must Your Minds and Hearts be given to quietness, that You must not do so much as let the Sun go down while You are in Wrath; for *Vengeance is mine saith the Lord, and I will repay it.*

In the next Place every Christian ought at all Times both early and late to pray unto the Lord, that he may add a Blessing to their Endeavours; and the better to be employed, let them follow after God's Preachers, hear them that Preach and Teach, that are both willing and able to declare the Word of God unto them. And so by degrees they shall find the Mercies of the Lord redoubled upon them, and thereby shall they be brought to ripeness of understanding, whereby to know and distinguish between

good and bad, which may be a good furtherance to them in their way to Heaven.

Thus Knowledge is such an excellent Virtue, that it is sufficient to bring us acquainted with the principal things that are to be had in this Life, and after this Life is ended, and it shall bring our Souls into everlasting Happiness.

True Knowledge will make you understand, that God the Father created Us, that God the Son redeemed us, and preserveth all those that faithfully believe that our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, suffered Death upon the Cross to save our Souls from the Torments of Hell, as You may read in the 13th Chapter of the Gospel written by St. Matthew, wherein it is said, *Blessed be Your Eyes for they see, and Your Ears for they hear, and Your Hearts for they understand.*

And to be Brief, True Knowledge and Understanding may be very well termed, *A Key to open Heaven's Gate.* Then what Man or Woman will be so wilfully blind as to neglect the seeking such an excellent Virtue. Yet there are some, and too many in these sinful and wicked Times, that are so careless and indifferent, that they had rather chuse to follow the vain delights and pleasures of this wicked World, than to seek for the Redemption of their Souls, and the Joys of Heaven hereafter, which our Saviour bought and paid for with his most precious Blood.

Some there are that bear a shew of Godliness, and yet they cannot spare one Hour to hear a good Sermon, or to serve God in: Others there are that do utterly deny and make a scoff of the Scripture, and at the Word of God. But I wish that all Persons may speedily amend their Lives, lest at the latter Day the Righteous Judge of all the World, Jesus

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Christ shall say unto them, *Depart from me ye workers of Iniquity.*

And now beloved Christians, I would have You to consider and think on this, that the Day of Judgment is near at Hand, and every Soul shall stand at the Bar of Arraignment before the righteous Judge, and render up an account of all their Deeds and Actions good and Evil : And then shall the good be severed from the bad, and the one lost with Joy and Triumph be received into everlasting Happiness, and the rest cast into utter Darkness, where nothing else is to be heard or seen, but Weeping Howling, and Gnashing of Teeth.

Moreover, I would have You consider, that at the general Judgment there are none to be excused from coming to their Answers, and every one shall be forced to appear in their Persons, and the Rich and the Poor, the King and the Beggar, the strong and the Weak, the Bond and the Free, all must come whether they will or not : For God has no Respect of Persons, and at the great and notable Day of the Lord our God, there is no delays to be made : There shall be no Lawyers to plead a Cause for either Man or Woman, for he shall be sure to have Work to do of his own, neither shall there be any Bribes, accepted of ; therefore look well about You, prevent the Wrath of the Judge while You may ; and provoke not God to Anger, lest Your Souls perish in his displeasure.

Yet furthermore, I would have You remember this, that as Saints in Heaven are Crowned with Glory, and the wicked sent into the gulph of Misery, there is no returning from either of these Places, but wheresoever they are sent by the Judge, there they are to continue, World without End, O what a heavy Sight will it be to the Wicked when they

shall see the glorious Saints and Angels of the Lord, and they themselves to be cast into utter darkness for ever, where they shall never behold the brightness of the Sun, nor the Glory of Christ again. Alas! dear Friends what a sad Thing it is to think upon, but ten thousand times worse to them that shall suffer themselves to be banished from the Presence of Christ for ever.

Such cursed Wretches as are here spoken of, are they who have lost that Way to Heaven, and can never find the *Key to Open Heaven's Gate withal*.

The last Thing I have to put You in Mind of, is that every one should remember his End, and think upon the Day of his Death, while he is yet alive on the Earth.

To this Purpose the wise Man *Solomon* hath taught us our Lessons to the Life; when he says, *Remember thy End and thy Creator in the Days of thy Youth*, as much as if he had said, *Remember thy End to Day, Tomorrow, and the next Day, and all the Days of thy Life*, and also that every Night before we Sleep we make our Peace with God, by way of humble Petition and Prayers unto his Heavenly Majesty, that if he will be pleased that if we never live to see the morrow morning, to forgive us all our Sins, and receive our Souls into his Heavenly Kingdom.

If every one will make use of what is here set down, and constantly Practice it in their lives and conversations, they need not fear Death, let him come early or late, sleeping or waking, or at what Time soever it be. Neither can the Gates of Hell, nor the Power of the Devils prevail against them that have found the right way to Heaven; and to conclude this Point, let all that ever mean well to their own Souls, take good Notice to what is said, it may be a means through God's great Mercy, to bring them that are

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gone astray, into the right and perfect way to Heaven, where at the first entrance our Saviour Jesus Christ, will be ready to Welcome us, with these sweet and comfortable greetings and embracements, with words as followeth. *Come, ye blessed Children of my Father receive a Crown and a Kingdom of Glory which was prepared for You from the beginning.* To which Kingdom the Lord in his good Time bring us all; there shall the blessed Souls of the righteous behold the celestial Saints of the Lord, and be partakers with them of the everlasting Felicity, which is unspeakable, then shall they that mourn here, be comforted there, and they that suffer reproaching Words, and abusive slanders, shameful disgraces, and persecutions for Christ, and the Gospel's sake, shall have a reward and sweet satisfaction in the Sanctuary of the most high God, and all those which have been wronged on Earth, shall be righted in Heaven: Which consideration may very well serve to comfort all such as have been or are any Ways afflicted, derided or oppressed, and falsely accused in this present Life, since there is a Crown of Glory laid up for them in the Life to come. Then let all true and faithful Believers, be valiant-hearted, and never be dismayed for all that can be done against them, by the Devil, the World, and the Flesh.

And for your further Instruction, I would wish you all be well advised, and to follow the Doctrine and Counsel of the Apostle St. Paul, who biddeth You, *Put on the whole Armour of God, having your Loins girt about with Truth, putting on the Breast Plate of Righteousness, and Feet shod with the Preparation of the Gospel of Peace; taking up the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation:* And being thus armed, you need not fear all the Enemies that ever can assault or

come against You. As You may read in the 6th Chap. of the *Ephesians*, 14, 15, 16, and 17th Verses. How to come to this Armour and how to use it, you must learn that of our Captain the Leader Jesus Christ, who suffered many Persecutions when he was upon the Earth, as Hunger, Cold, Banishment, Scorns and Taunts, Whipping and Buffetting, Spitting in the Face, and at last nailed on the Cross, and pierced on the Heart with a bloody Spear. In all which he was never seen to look upon his Enemies with a frowning Eye, nor to give them so much as an angry Word, but at the very Point of Death he took all Things patiently, and prayed for his Enemies saying, *Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.* And when he fetched the last gasp, and at the Yielding up of the Ghost, he cried with a loud Voice, *Father, into thy Hands I commit my Spirit.*

Thus was our Saviour Jesus Christ made a sufferer for our sake; and all those Torments did he undergo while he was on Earth, to teach us the Way to Heaven: And thus hath he purchased with his most dear and precious Blood, to save us from the Torments of Hell: And after that Christ had suffered the sharpness of Death, he ascended into Heaven, where he hath made intercession for all them that are his followers. And seeing that our Saviour hath led the Way, why should we not be willing to come to him? he hath promised he will never leave nor forsake Us. Therefore let us look to ourselves, if we will not find the Way to Heaven the fault is our own. Therefore to finish up all, I once more desire you all, that You will never leave practizing to find the Way to Heaven; *For ever blessed are they who continue to the End.*

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